JAN 3 1 2003

<u>PATENT</u>

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Mendez & Finer

Group Art Unit: 1636

Serial No.: 09/762,476

Examiner: Sandals

Filed: 27 September 2001

HYBRID YEAST-BACTERIA CLONING

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed 24 December 2002.

Attached hereto and herein incorporated by reference is a Petition for Extension of Time for a one-month extension making the due date for response 24 February 2003.

Kindly amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

-- 18 Vectors comprising:

(a) a first arm having a first selectable marker and a first cyclization element; and

SUB BI)

(b) a second arm having a second selectable marker and a second selectable marker and a second cyclization element,

wherein at least one arm further comprises an origin of replication.